



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Brian Pomper/Wendy Carey
202-224-4515

BAUCUS PRAISES TAIWAN FOR REOPENING ITS MARKET TO U.S. BEEF Senator Pushed Country To Resume Taking Montana Beef

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Montana Senator Max Baucus today hailed the news that Taiwan will resume accepting U.S. beef beginning April 16, 2005.

Baucus praised the announcement and applauded Taiwan for following sound science in reversing the ban on U.S. beef implemented after the discovery of a Canadian-born BSE-infected dairy cow in Washington state in December 2003.

"I'm pleased Taiwan based its decision on sound science to start taking U.S. beef," Baucus said. "U.S. beef is the safest and highest quality in the world. I applaud Taiwan for leading Northeast Asia in lifting its ban. Taiwan is an important market for U.S. beef. I urge Japan and Korea, two other important markets, to follow Taiwan's lead."

Last August, Representative David Tawei Lee, Taiwan's top diplomat in Washington D.C., visited Montana as part of a delegation of Ambassadors and top diplomats from Asia hosted by Baucus.

"Last summer, I ate Montana beef with Senator Baucus after touring a ranch outside of Great Falls. Now with this decision, I look forward to eating Montana beef in Taiwan," said Representative Lee after the announcement.

Since Taiwan, Japan and Korea closed their borders to U.S. beef following the BSE incident in Washington state in December of 2003, Baucus has been working together with government and business leaders to reopen those borders. In March 2004, he led a Montana trade delegation to Asia to urge leaders there to resume taking Montana's world-class beef.

Following today's announcement, Baucus pledged to continue working with the Japanese and Korean governments to reopen their borders as well.

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